

THE SABRES' BLADE

October 8, 1997

South Mecklenburg High School

8900 Park Road

Charlotte, North Carolina, 28210

Volume XXV

South Meck's Leading Ladies



Photograph by Dennis Cowardin.



Hope Politis was crowned the 1997 Homecoming Queen.

Crystal Muse named Miss South

By Karen Whichard

Crystal Muse was crowned Miss South at half-time of the Anson County-South Meck home football opener. Nikki Harris, last year's winner, was on hand to present Crystal with the crown.

Crystal is a dynamic member of the class of 1998. She is a member of South's student government, Lettergirls, and is the president of Peaceful Sa-

bres. Crystal is also president of Sisters With Vision.

South students selected Crystal from a group of eleven finalists. The ten other nominees were: Jackie Gause, Kristy Michue, Gia Clements, Brantley Dubose, Alicia Speller, Leslie Whitten, Adrienne Damiano, Meredith Bullard, Kris Bostedo, and Jennifer Munday.

Crystal will represent South Meck at the Carolina Carrousel Parade this Thanksgiving.

Hope Politis crowned Homecoming Queen

By Karen Whichard

For the fourth year in a row, the rains ceased just long enough for the 1997 Homecoming festivities. During half-time of the Sabre 33-0 triumph over the Garinger Wildcats, Jennifer Lyon, the reigning queen, crowned Hope Politis as the Homecoming Queen for the 1997-98 school year. Kim McNeff was first runner-up and Asia Pratt was second runner-

up.

Hope is involved with several organizations at South Meck. She is vice-president of Interkeys, a member of both Beta Club and National Honor Society, and is a member of P.A.W.S. She is also an I.C.C. representative and yearbook section editor. Hope is involved in the community, serving as a member of the Belk Teen Board and is a Youth Group Council Member.

Ain't no party like a South Meck party...

By Gia Clements
and Karen Whichard

The dangers of teenage driving have become a major issue in the last few years. North Carolina has implemented a graduated driver's license, and many other states have done the same. South Meck became a focal point of the debate when the Oprah Winfrey Show gave junior Doug Ernsburger a camera to document the habits of new drivers.

Teenage driving and teenage drinking have seemingly become one in the same problem. Oprah's cameras caught more than just reckless driving. While the program only showed Doug in the car, what was caught on tape but not shown was a typical Friday night party. Many students spent an unusual amount of quality time with their parents away from the television set on September 23, in hopes of keeping their parents in the dark. When a student, who wished to remain anonymous, was asked if the party and the tape shown on Oprah were the normal social activities, he said, "It goes on all the time; you know it does."

South Meck was obviously not the only school with students seen on Oprah, but it is definitely not the kind of publicity the school wishes to have.

Babcock, Whichard named Morehead nominees

By Andrew Buchert

The two finalists chosen to represent South in the John Motley Morehead Scholarship competition are Andy Babcock and Karen Whichard. Babcock and Whichard will interview to advance in the competition in October.

The Morehead Scholarship is a full scholarship to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and is based on four criteria: leadership, scholarship, moral force of character, and physical vigor. Applicants must be well rounded, display a good academic record in challenging courses, and must exhibit honesty, integrity, and courtesy.

Andy Babcock is the president

of Beta Club, and a member of First Priority, National Honor Society, and Spanish Honor Society. He is also the director of the Youth Outreach program at his church. Andy has been playing soccer since the age of four, and was a member of the varsity soccer team his sophomore and junior year. He plans to become a missionary in an underprivileged Spanish-speaking country.

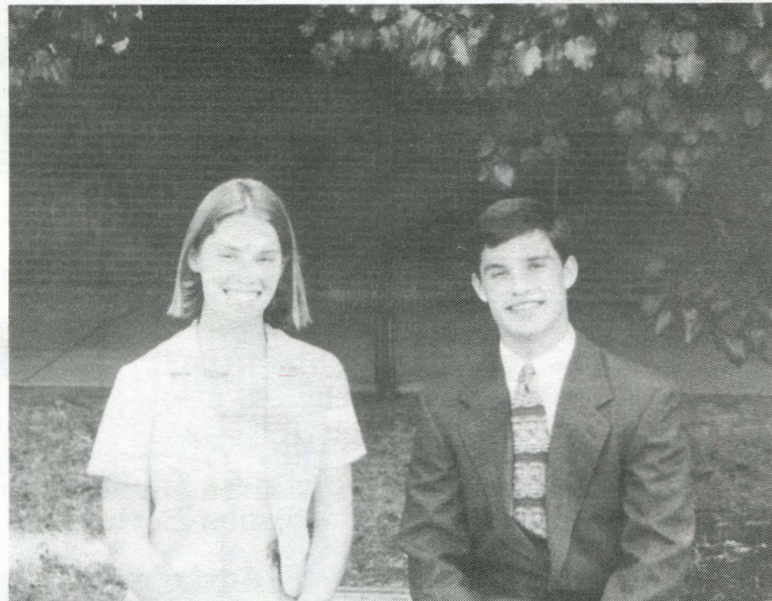
Babcock's brother, Nathan, is a freshman at UNC Chapel Hill, and was a Morehead nominee last year. "I would really like to attend Chapel Hill," said Andy. "It is a very good school and has great academics."

Karen Whichard is the treasurer of Beta Club, Secretary of

ICC, and a co-editor of *The Sabres' Blade*. She is also the president of PAWS and Women's Chamber choir, and a member of National Honor Society, Latin Honor Society, and SOS. Whichard plays varsity volleyball, basketball, and softball, and plans to study sports broadcasting. Last year, she was a member of Dr. Eric Smith's student advisory board, SAGE (Student Advisory Group to Education).

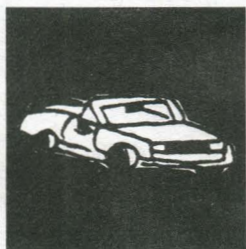
"I am very honored to be a Morehead nominee, with a chance to receive the scholarship and the opportunity to represent South in the competition," said Babcock.

"It is a real honor to be selected," said Whichard, "the other nominees were strong."



Karen Whichard and Andy Babcock will represent South in the Morehead Scholarship competition.

Check out
Sabres'
cars...

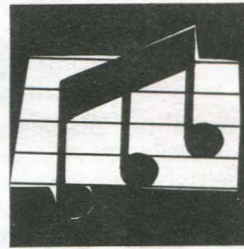


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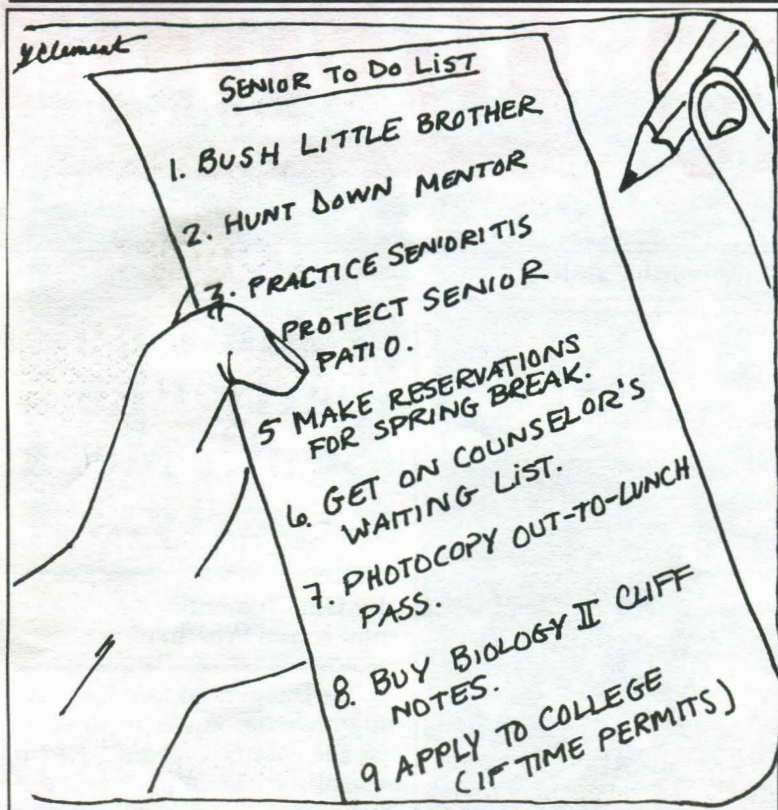
South and
Providence unite...

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New
releases on
CD...



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Seniors want more

By Karen Whichard

"It's 2:05, and seniors may now be dismissed." It's been a long ride, but the class of 1998 has finally reached the coveted senior privileges. Remember the days of running from the gravel pit, through the mud and muck to first period? Worry no more; we all get a slab of pavement this year.

Another great senior privilege sends us running for our cars, ready to get onto the super speedway of Park Road for Out-to-Lunch. You might want to branch out from Bojangle's, though, we all know how slow the line is.

As the year rolls on, and graduation looms ever closer, the administration will even give us a whole week to do our own thing. Senior Week actually legalizes going to class late, and leaving school five minutes early. Also, we finally get the Rusty's catered lunch for field day.

Last, but certainly not least, there is our senior patio. Hopefully, we can convince the freshmen to move. If the freshmen

won't move, it's easy to find seniors who need "Happy Birthday" sung to them. All in all, while we may complain now, our senior privileges are just as good, if not better than the other local high schools. Even our rival school Providence doesn't have Out-to-Lunch for its seniors. But hey, why not keep pushing for more?

Perhaps future seniors will be able to convince the administration of the need for more privileges. Wouldn't it be nice if seniors were allowed out to lunch every Friday? It would alleviate cafeteria traffic.

A senior class trip would be a nice treat, especially after those stressful senior exit projects are finished. Seniors could even take their mentors with them; what a great incentive to be a mentor.

Get going freshmen and sophomores! Fight for your senior privileges.

Gia Clements, Leah Reed, Andrew Dyer, Matt Strother, and Jennifer Collins also contributed to this article.

Providence, South unite

Panther Perspective

By Elizabeth Berry

On Monday, August 18, not only did school begin with the new freshmen but also the new transfer students from Providence who had been reassigned to South Meck.

At the end of the last school year, the realization of going to South set in and we were skeptical about leaving our friends and, though we were only there for a year, the familiarity of our old school. We were comforted to know that we weren't going as individuals, which is the case when you move, but as a group. We were determined to make the best of our circumstances.

Our first impression was that South would not meet our standards in the fields of academics and athletics. But now, we see many new opportunities we may not have had while we were still at Providence. We are learning school is school no matter what campus, and teachers have the same expectations.

Both schools with their rivalries and stereotypes collided on that first day. Transfer students feeling they were being thrown into a war zone of freaks and South feeling "snobs" were invading their territory. The first week was difficult but things began to smooth out as time progressed.

A piece of advice for the ex-Providence students: stop complaining and open your eyes to see the good things around you. As for the old Sabres, be patient with us as we learn to adjust to these new surroundings.

We will be spending the next few years here and let's make them the best they can possibly be.

Sabre Perspective

By Leah Reed

The new changes occurring at South Meck this year have added even more turmoil to the beginning of an already hectic school year. We have new teachers, new policies, and new students. And because of the newly redrawn school districts, we also have new transfer students from Providence.

For some reason, some South Meck students have chosen to ostracize these new students by not allowing them in certain cliques. By doing this, we are imitating what we claim to dislike about their school. Beginning a new school year is always hard, but it is even harder when the students have to deal with rude people giving them a tough time.

South Meck is supposed to have this giant rivalry with Providence, but that rivalry is against the school as a whole, not against individual students. This rivalry stems from our competition in academics and athletics. These new students are trying their best to conform to the ways of South and leave behind their Providence mentality. The student body needs to keep that in mind when they come in contact with these new students.

The students of South Meck who have been giving the former Panthers a difficult time need to think how they would want to be treated, had the situation been reversed. Everyone has the right to be treated with courtesy and respect, no matter what school they used to attend. High school experiences are short, but the memories last a lifetime.

Quick Take on Opinions

Voice abuse is nothing to shout about

To cheer or not to cheer? If that is the question, it's pretty easy to choose the wrong answer. Say it's nearing the end of the fourth quarter and the Panthers are behind by a field goal. Naturally, you holler like there's no tomorrow.

But there is a tomorrow, and if you're like many sports fans in the Carolinas, your voice is going to be hurting when tomorrow comes.

Fans everywhere are experiencing this dilemma: cheer and be hoarse tomorrow, or don't cheer and feel like a chump?

The experts have some bad news: Not cheering is exactly the strategy to be employed. According to Dan Boye, a Davidson College physics professor and professional opera singer, the vocal chords are like a muscle. And just as you wouldn't bench press 250 pounds without prior training, you shouldn't abuse or strain your vocal chords.

People who use their voices professionally go through years of practice, said Terri Treman, director of speech pathology at Presbyterian Hospital. So if you're getting hoarse, Treman has two suggestions: "One is don't yell. (The other is) be extensively trained theatrically. In between there's not a lot you can do."

The long-term effect of vocal-chord abuse is full-time raspiness and possible lesions from tissue inflammation.

"Remember, it's OK to hold back a bit. You want to be supportive," Treman said. "But what people have to remember is they don't have to be the loudest fan out there."

Curtis Sittenfeld
The Charlotte Observer

Where has respect gone in today's society?

Usually, American students treat students from another country with either an air of indifference at best or with downright hostility at worse. This is unfortunate, since no American's family is originally from this land. All the people in this country come from elsewhere if you go back far enough. The stereotype is that if you are not born here, then you are stupid and don't belong. That's not true. If you are quiet in the classroom, it does not mean you are not intelligent or that you are weird. Many American students born in other countries are easily embarrassed by their language skills. With time, these students will improve their communication skills. We should judge each other, as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. put it, "by the content of our character," not by how we look. We should be judged by our actions.

Roselyn Torrellas
Wordsmith
Ben Smith High School

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By Karen Whichard

Attention: If you participate in any of the following activities, you may be prone to senioritis. If you have all the symptoms, just concentrate on English and Senior Exit, because you are a lost cause.

Senioritis is a slow forming disease, in no way restricted to the senior. It typically begins during your junior year, when the vocab tests become unimportant to you because you've already taken your SAT. It can be brutal in some extreme cases, but generally is no worse than spring fever.

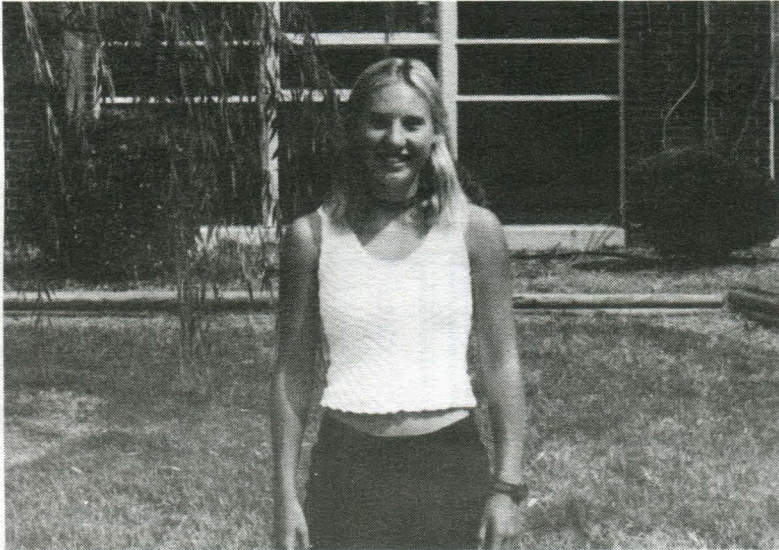
The monster doesn't really begin to rear its ugly head until the summer, when summer reading becomes merely a whimsical memory of past years. Movie watching parties are organized, and Cliff becomes your best friend in the week before that final school year. It only gets worse. When schedules are mailed out and the victim finds that he must choose between Calculus and early release, the vision

of an ER sticker is too much to turn down.

The Senior Patio. This is probably the most dangerous place for the senior who has yet to contract this wretched disease. Lunch talk turns to reunion planning, and arguments abound over the date and time of graduation. Smart freshmen should not fear the patio, because this group of seniors is not willing to exert the time nor the effort of the all-American freshmen sing in.

If you are one of the seniors who has contracted senioritis, be comforted, because you are not alone. Just repeat to yourself, "June 5. June 5. June 5," but watch out for the hundreds of freshmen wandering around. They won't graduate until after the millennium, and we can't impede their progress by infecting them too early. Also, although we all love Bojangles, it will stay in business even if we wait until early release to go. Relax, there's only 143 days until it's all over.

Faces in the Crowd



Name: Corey Robinson
Music: Sublime

Pet Peeve: Disrespectful people
Preferred Food: Macaroni and Cheese
Sports Team: Carolina Panthers
Favorite Place: Charleston
Subject: History

Rockin' Robinson

By Gia Clements

Many students know Corey Robinson because of her cheerful, outgoing personality. Her involvement in a variety of clubs and sports makes her a difficult person to miss.

Corey is always ready to support her fellow classmates. You can find her most Friday evenings during football season cheering for South at half-time when the Sabre Marching Band performs. Corey is the trumpet section leader and plays an important role in maintaining order in the brass section. This year Corey is a featured soloist in the song 'Minnie the Moocher.' When she's not marching, Corey is swimming on South Meck's swim team, of which she has been a member for the past three years.

Corey has presided as

president of South Mecks's D.O.T. (Devoting-Our-Time) service club for several years, although she steps down as president this year and will direct her attention to training the new officers.

When asked about her hero, Corey will reply without a moment's hesitation. "My mother is my hero. She raised me by herself, which had to be no small task. I don't remember being a very easy child," she said. It was Corey's mother who encouraged her to run last year for Student Council. Corey is now a general member of the Senior Class Council thanks to her determination and the support of her friends and family.

If you don't know Corey, be sure to find her and say "hi". She will bring a smile to your face.

What is your opinion on the new tardy policy?



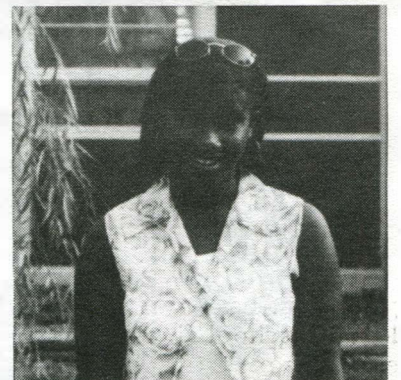
Allison Maul, 10th

"They should be more understanding when we have a long way to walk to class."



Jackie Lewis, 12th

"Everybody is late once in a while. It's too big of a punishment to stay after school."



Tynisha Keitt, 10th

"With lock-out, you fell behind in class and were counted as absent."

In Step with Risha

By Nicole Ewing

Dedication, hard work, and faith are qualities that make a person successful. Risha Madhavaiya is one of South's highest achievers.

Risha is Secretary of First Priority, Vice President of National Honor Society, and a dedicated member of Beta Club, Renaissance, and International Club. With her busy schedule she still manages a 4.62 GPA. Her classes include Calculus AP, Biology II AP, and Spanish IV. "Risha has the total package of assets to be outstanding in every regard," said Mr. Rose, her Biology II AP teacher.

Her faith has always been one of the most important things in Risha's life. "Jesus Christ is the center of my life. Without Him, none of my activities would have any meaning," she said.

She is very involved in her church, participating in outreach programs and Bible study.

If she isn't at school or church, she is dancing with The Dance Control Company at CPCC. Risha is extremely talented and has been dancing for eight years, often spending ten hours a week in dance classes. She has appeared in many outstanding productions, such as *The Nutcracker*, *Les Sylphides*, and *Swan Lake*.

Risha plans to go to medical school, and continue dancing as a hobby. "God, dance, friends and family are my life," she said. Her advice to students is, "Be well-rounded, get involved at school, church, and community, and spend time with those you care about. Whatever you do, do it with your whole heart," she said.



Name: Risha Madhavaiya
Preferred Food: Pasta
In CD Player: Jars of Clay
Favorite Color: Purple

Birthday: February 21, 1980
Pet Peeve: Wearing brown belt with black shoes

Fender-Mender

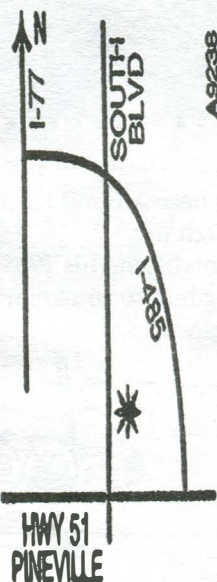
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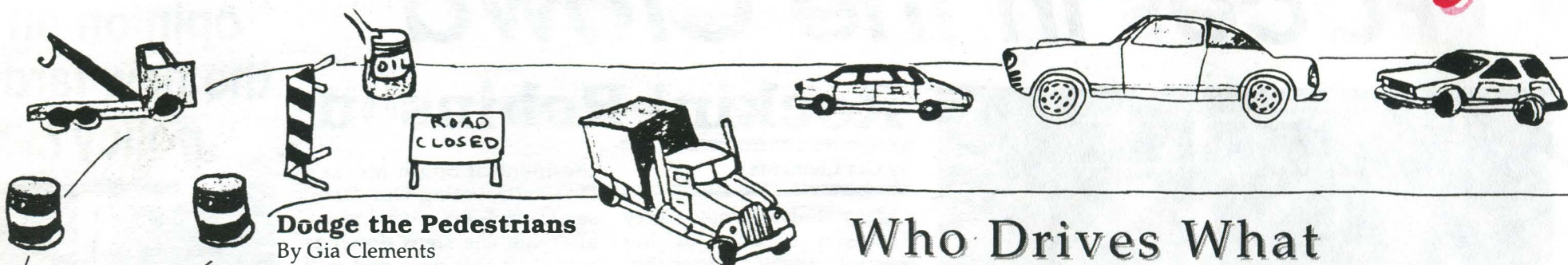
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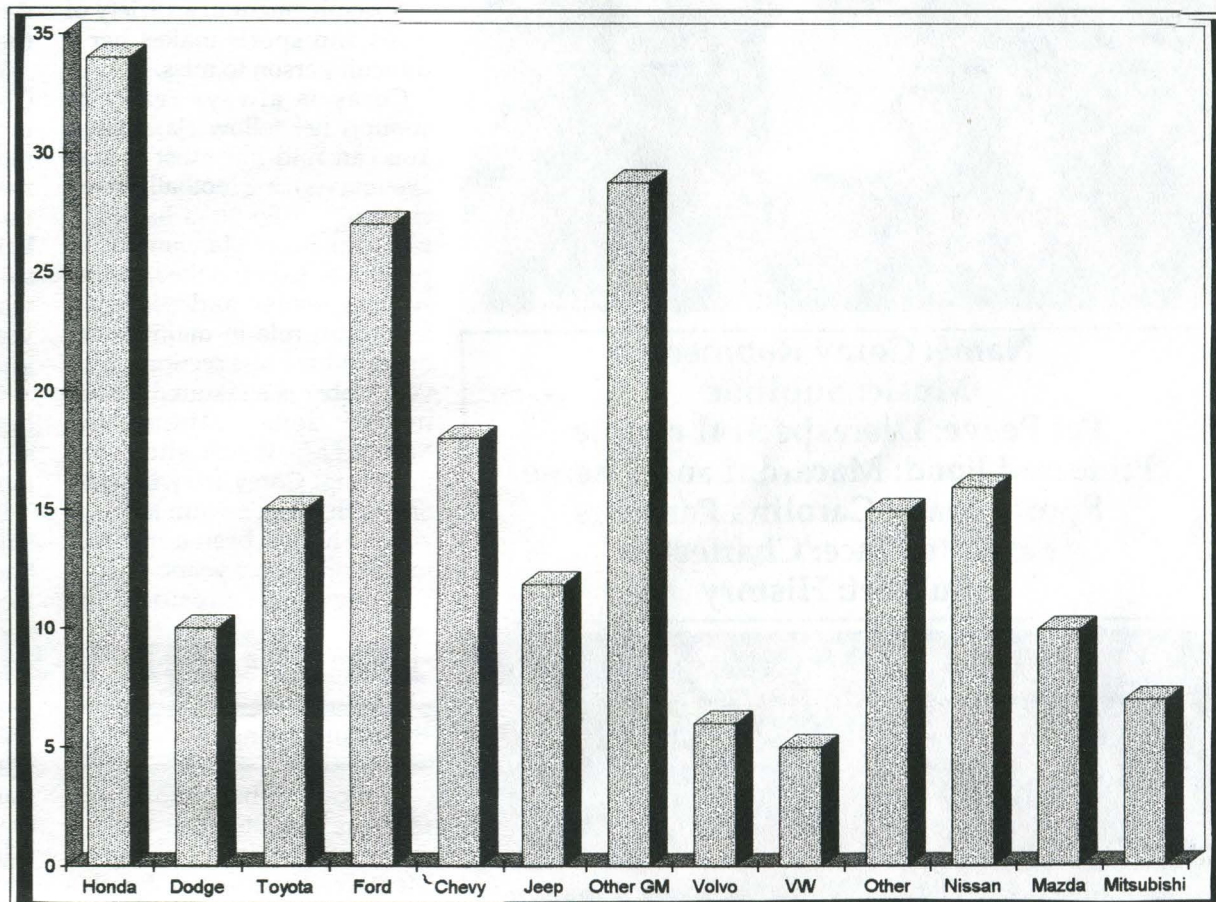
By Gia Clements

At the beginning of the new school year we all become familiar with parking lot traffic and our math or gym teachers taking their lives into their hands by directing us out of the parking lot. Driving adds another dimension to our lives, more responsibility and still more privileges. Whether we have a car or not, cars have become important commodities in our lives, and they provide a good deal of humor on the side.

Whats In Your Trunk ?

- "My Bumper" Kristy Michue 12th
- "A parachute" Cary Hill 12th
- "Chicken wire" Elizabeth Hamilton 12th
- "My cat...just kidding" Walter Boyle 11th
- "Fuzz Buster" Brian King 12th
- "Marching band hat" Gia Clements 12th

Who Drives What



Compiled by Andrew Dyer and Matt Strother

Campus Clunker



Photo by Andrew Dyer

From the look of Donnie Lyon's truck, it has been around for a while. Faded paint and a deep rumble from the engine hint at years of rough use.

Donnie has put countless hours fixing and modifying his 1965 Chevrolet pickup truck. He replaced his original engine with a 357, allowing him to smoke his tires anywhere. He claims to be able to reach up to 120 mph with his new engine.

Top 10 Most Wanted Street Signs

Compiled By Leah Reed

1. Bump
2. Road Hump
3. Stop
4. Yield
5. No Passing Zone
6. Duck Crossing
7. Speed Limit 75 mph
8. Smoke
9. Welcome to Myrtle Beach
10. End of Construction



Campus

Layout by Gia Clements
Border by Laura King

Typical Teenage Car

Just For a Laugh

Q: What's the hardest car to hit?

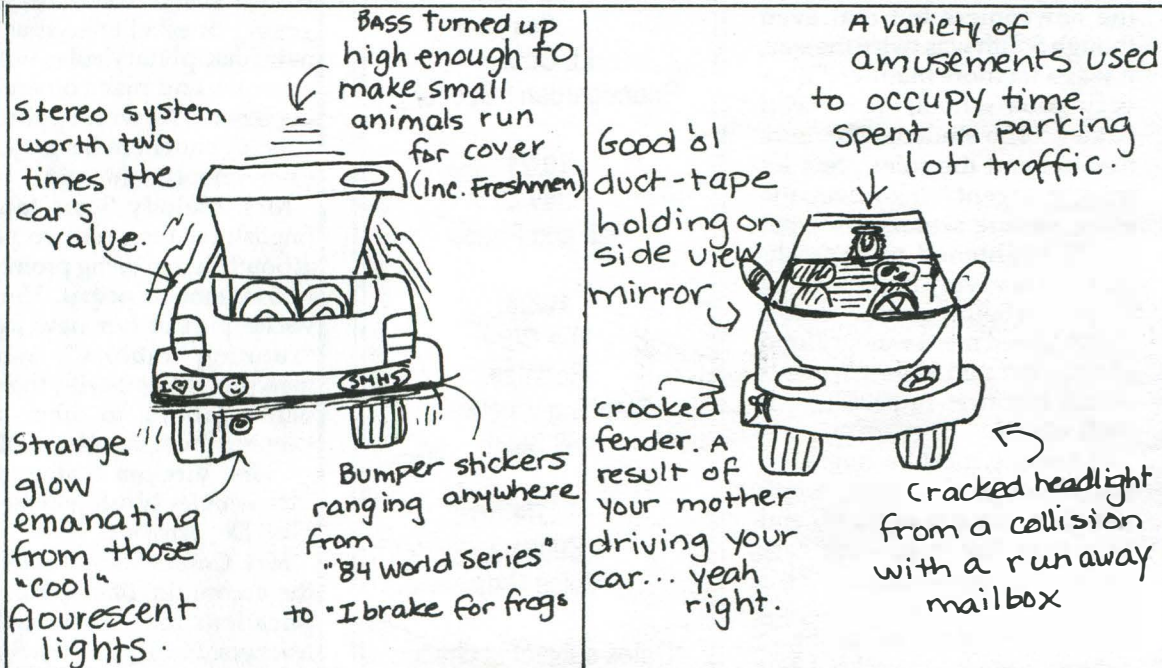
A: A Dodge

Q: How do you double the value of a teenager's car?

A: Fill it with gas.

Q: What do you call a teenager's car with dual exhaust?

A: A wheelbarrow.



By Gia Clements

A Quick Look Back

By Gia Clements

Cars have become the most common mode of transportation in the twentieth century. It is difficult to picture what life was like without cars. Believe it or not, there was a time when traffic jams did not exist.

In the late 1800's there were a lot of people who had still not seen a car. In 1894, Vermont passed a law that forced

those driving on public roads to have someone walk in front of the car to warn others of its approach. Cars were so rare that Barnum and Bailey Circus displayed one as its major oddity in 1896.

A lot has changed since Henry Ford's "Model T". Back then, cars resembled wooden crates mounted on a set of four bicycle wheels. The car's engine

was built from a steam engine's exhaust pipe and the steering wheel resembled a bicycle's handlebars.

Today, major roads are lined with car dealerships. In the 1900's the only accessories for cars were electric horns. Now cars come with stereos, automatic windows, and speed control.

Modern cars come in a

variety of colors and models. Henry Ford produced his "Model T" in only one style and one color-black. Not much variety, but it worked for him. Consumers now have to decide if they want an '4x4', or if a luxury car is more their speed. Cars have come a long way; the possibilities for improvement seem endless.

CAMPUS CLASSIC



Photo by Andrew Dyer

This year, every student who has ever been in the parking lot, will recognize Dennis Cowardin's 1972 MG Midget.

Dennis purchased this small red sports car over the summer for an undisclosed amount of money. Even though it is a very sporty car, it was not built to race. With only a 1275 cubic centimeter engine, this car packs less of a punch than you would think. Dennis claims that it can do 0 to 40 mph relatively quickly, but 40 to 70 mph in about three minutes. Dennis rarely needs to go 70 mph in his smooth looking convertible.

Top 10 Dream Cars

Compiled by Leah Reed

1. Lexus Landcruiser
2. Dodge Viper
3. Mitsubishi 3000GT
4. Porsche
5. Mitsubishi Eclipse
6. Ford Mustang
7. BMW Z3
8. Hummer
9. Jeep Wrangler
10. Volkswagen Punch Buggy

Freshmen invade Sabre Country

By Nicole Ewing and
Gia Clements

First day of school. Seniors, counting down the days until graduation; juniors, proud to be upperclassmen; sophomores, happy to not be freshmen anymore; and the freshmen, lost. Every year hundreds of unexpected freshmen come to South not knowing a thing about what high school is like. Often the upperclassmen don't really notice the freshmen because they tend to hide in the shelters of A building, "The Freshman Palace."

So what do freshmen really think of South? Upperclassmen remember what it was like when we were at the bottom of the food chain, but a lot has changed since then. South has grown tremendously, gaining over 700 students from many different schools. So how do freshmen feel? The majority of 9th graders that we asked said that they were very scared, (mostly of singing and being bushed). "At first I was scared to death be-

cause I thought that everyone was going to pick on me," said Kelly Ewing. "But once I found my friends, I was fine." Patsy Fowler said, "I thought I was going to be all by myself. When I got here, it wasn't bad at all."

Compared to middle school, the newcomers felt that even though South was twice the size, it was a lot more mature. "It's a very good school," said Leon Felder, "The students are more mature, and the rules are a lot more stringent." However, the more mature seniors are what really frightened most freshmen. "I was very impressed by the size of South, but the seniors really scared me. I was so afraid of singing," said Reina Clements about her first impression of high school.

As a whole, most freshmen feel that although they were intimidated by the size of South and of getting lost, they were very excited to come here. "This place is huge," Matt Russell said, "I thought I was going to get lost in such a big school, but the females are fine!"

October-November CD Release Dates*

10/7
Elastica
Everclear
Janet Jackson
Jimi Hendrix

10/14
Green Day
Kiss
LL Cool J
Soundgarden (Best of)

10/21
Jay Z
Salt and Peppa

10/28
The Cure
Redman
Stabbing Westward
Will Smith

11/4
Sublime
Spice Girls

*Dates subject to change

New faces join faculty

By Elizabeth Berry,
Megan McKnight,
and Chris O'Connor

Mrs. Pamela Espinosa joins South as an assistant principal coming from West Charlotte, where she worked for two years. She believes that the new disciplinary rules will be effective, and plans on enforcing them. "We will support the superintendent in his goals for safer schools," she said.

Mrs. Melody Sears taught English for the past two years at South before being promoted to assistant principal. Her favorite part of her new job is "running rabbits", which means being out with the students, talking to them, and keeping them out of trouble.

Mrs. Virginia Matney and Mrs. Jennifer Welsh join the English Department.

Mrs. Connie Ferrell is one of the accounting, computer applications, and keyboarding teachers. She has had two sons graduate from South.

Mrs. Kay Cox is teaching keyboarding and business math.

Mrs. Stacy Champion, the new orchestra teacher has many new challenges to face since this is her first year teaching in public school.

Senora Nora Saxon grew up in Bogota, Colombia and is the new Spanish I and II teacher.

Mr. Derick Ervin is the new Fundamentals of Technology and Communications Systems teacher.

Ms. Arlene Woodruff has taught for 28 years and is the new Media Coordinator.

Mr. Arthur Walker is teaching 9th grade English and High School Success for the first time.

Mr. Chet Greeson joins the Athletic Department as a physical education teacher. This is his 13th year teaching.

Mrs. Lisa Toliver and Mrs. Rhonda Thompson join the math department.

Mr. Derix Bell teaches social studies, and Mr. Todd Martin teaches science.

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Soccer sets sights high

By Laura King

Sabre soccer looks promising this year. The varsity team kicked off their 1997 season with a dynamite 11-0 victory over Vance High School. This year's team includes thirteen returning players, who have both experience and depth on the field.

Captained by sweeper Eric Connelly and midfielder Gus Doulaveris, who was an all-conference and all-region player last year, the team's ultimate goal is to take the Southwestern 4-A Conference Championship title. It will be a tough hill to climb with the strong competition, but coach Jim Lynch thinks the team

is very capable. "Eric provides leadership on defense, and senior midfielder Steve Gowdy works well with Doulaveris and should help to create a prolific attack." Sophomore Bryson Hopkins and junior Kevin Stallings also look to combine for a lot of shutouts in goals this season.

The junior varsity squad has received a flood of new talent this year and will be extremely dangerous on the playing field. The young team is being led by sophomores Mark Hendrix and Scott Whelchel. They got off to a good start with a powerful 5-0 win over Vance and a 0-0 tie against 4-A power Myers Park High School.

Photograph by Dennis Cowardin.



South's Mark Hendrix battles for a loose ball.

Panthers visit South

By Jennifer Collins

The Sabre football field was the location NFL star Mike Fox chose as his catalog shooting headquarters for the first week of September. Fox's newly created company is called My Zone. The profits from all his sales benefit diabetes organizations, the Special Olympics, his scholarship fund, and many

other charities. Roger Cullis, Operations Manager of My Zone, believes the company will take off quickly. They currently have a 20 page website. Now that the catalog is completed, keep your eyes open for My Zone to be the new athletic brand to buy. And it all began with a camera and couple of models posing on South's football field.

Tennis takes toll in Sabre territory

By Nicole Ewing

The Lady Sabres Tennis team is off to a great start this season. Their non-conference record is 5-1. Their main competition is Myers Park and Providence, but the girls are confident that they will come out on top. "So far we have had a lot of hard teams to play against, but we have fought our way through, and hopefully we can do that throughout the rest of the season," said Captain Kim Rogers.

The team is relatively young with five sophomores and juniors and five freshmen. The team is proving that they won't

let age and small numbers interfere with their chances of making it to the state tournament. "We have a lot of new girls this year, but most are experienced tennis players. I plan to use this to our advantage," said Coach Art Abbott. "We are very serious and determined, so I think we will definitely reach our goals," she said.

The players support each other, and believe that teamwork is an essential part of the plan to make state playoffs. "We are all very team oriented. Our closeness will help us get through the harder matches," said captain Annye Scrogum.

Volleyball team begins journey to playoffs

By Elizabeth Berry

The volleyball season blasted off to a challenging start this year. Many of last year's varsity team members are returning, which has resulted in greater unity among the players and coach Diane Dave. This allows them to execute dynamic plays and overpower their opponents.

The team started practice two weeks before school began, and still exhibits the same enthusiasm as they did on the first day. All the players are equally talented and enjoy every minute of their games. Their record is currently 9 and 4.

The junior varsity started later than scheduled due to the absence of a former coach. Mrs. Nancy Little soon filled the vacant spot and coached her team to a competitive level. The junior varsity team is already holding a record of 7 wins and 2 losses. The energetic team is made up of a variety of different talents, all working well together.

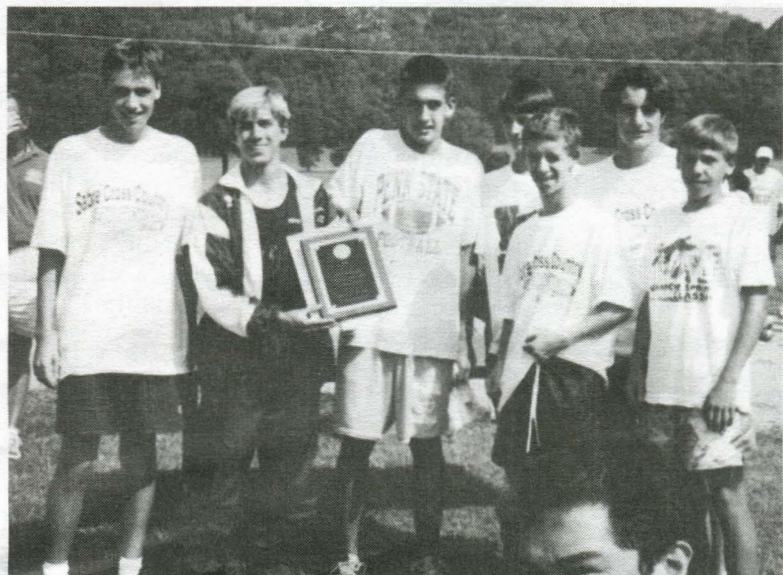
Football kicks off in high gear

By Jennifer Collins

Every athletic team must adjust to the beginning of a new season. Most often a team must overcome the loss of seniors and gain of new players. The Sabre football team has quickly overcome this obstacle. Although this year's football team is dominated by underclassmen, the few seniors are all great leaders. "This senior class has responded well to the challenge of the season," commented coach Shaughnessey. "The team is focused and working hard."

The team is well rounded. It is strong from both an offensive and defensive angle. South is currently competing in the toughest league in the state. The Sabres next three games against Providence, West Charlotte, and Independence will determine a lot about South's chance at making the play-offs. The coaching staff has full confidence in the team's ability to achieve this goal.

For the first time since Olympic and Independence opened, two schools must share football fields. South is currently sharing its facilities with Butler. The Sabres believe that Butler is lucky to be able to play on Sabre turf. South has not witnessed any less support from the fans, even with their game at Memorial Stadium.



Cross Country team poses with first place trophy.

Cross country off and running

By Chris O'Connor

The men's cross country team captured their first major title of the season by winning the Western Carolina University Invitational. It was South's first Cross Country title since winning the Conference Championship in 1971.

After losing four of their top five runners, including standout twins Mike and Cliff Mauriello, the Sabres were not expected to finish among the top teams. After all, the best they were able to produce in 1996 was a third place finish at Wendy's Invitational, and fourth in the conference and regionals. The Sabres have shown that growth in the program of the past five seasons is paying off, and are now ready to challenge some of the traditional cross country powers.

At WCU the Sabres edged a strong team from Winder-Barrow, Ga. and the defending 3A state champions, the Franklin Panthers. The Sabres placed four runners in the top 15 fin-

ishers, led by sophomores John Lakas, Chris Gordon, Alexi Neill, and Brendon McHugh.

"We have been making good progress this year" stated Coach Lalas. "I know that many people did not expect us to be really strong this season, but I believed that we could be quite good. This just shows the progress that our program is making. Now we have to keep improving."

In the ladies' division of the WCU meet, the Sabres were unable to score because they were just short of a full team. Kate Meier won an individual award for a time of 22:02 and a seventh place finish. Melody Milroy finished with a time of 24:14 and Tiffany Bumgardner ran a 29:05.

Most of the women's team did not return for this season. Their only veteran runners are juniors Kate Meier and Melody Milroy.

Next up for South will be the Wendy's Invitational October 4 and the Appalachian State University Invitational October 11.

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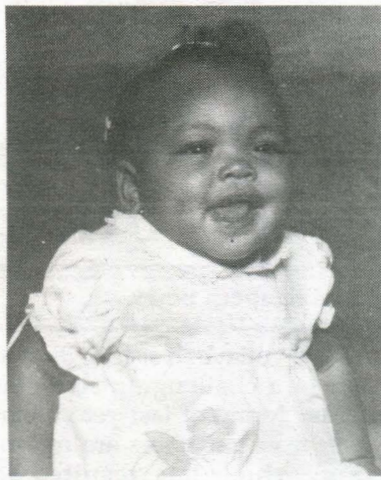
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Senior Mysteries

Marching to a new beat



By Karen Whichard

Many may know this senior mystery from her involvement with basketball. The Lady Sabrebasketball team is not all this senior woman is involved with, however. She is a member of Sisters With Vision, and has been on the homecoming court in past years. She played JV soccer her freshman year, and was JV basketball captain her sophomore year.

If you are hungry, you can probably find her at Manhattan Bagel, where she works. If you are running late in the morning, you will see her in her maroon Jeta, happy to finally have the sacred senior parking spot. If you still don't know who this spirited Sabre is, look for the answer on page 6.



By Elizabeth Berry

You might see this senior working at your friendly Chick-Fil-A or driving his golden Ford Escort to his church, First Baptist Matthews. His future career choice is to be an FBI agent. He also loves to play with his cat and dog. He is involved in the Interact Club, Chamber Singers, and also is the Drum Major for band. He played the character Karnes in the school production of *Oklahoma*.

If you are still clueless, this 6'3" senior is known around campus for his humorous antics as well as his love for music. He may even be voted most likely to "trip" up the stairs at graduation. Do you know who this senior mystery is? Look on page 6.

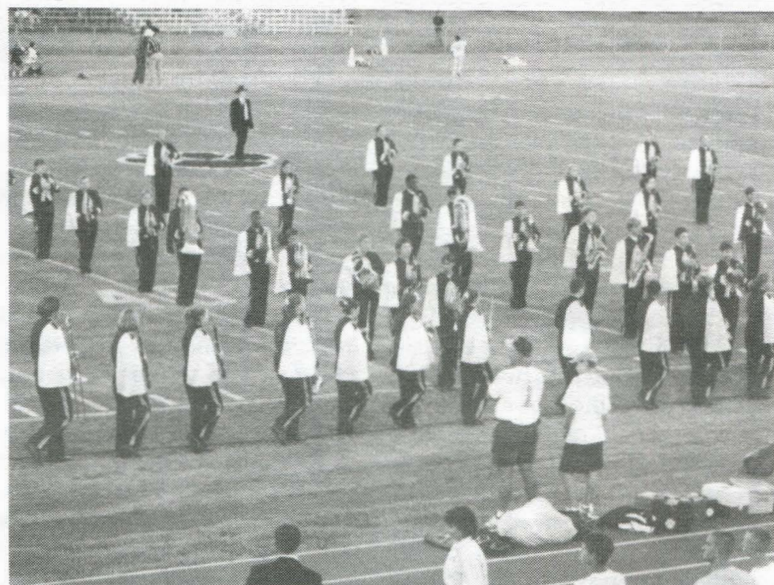
By Matthew Strother

Under the leadership of a new director, and the implementation of a new policy for freshmen, the marching band is undergoing many changes.

Since his arrival last February, David Ragsdale has taken an active role in reforming the marching band. Because of the band's dwindling numbers over the past few years, a policy for incoming freshmen has been developed. Freshmen are currently required to be in marching band as well as the regular playing Band Ensembles.

Along with the new freshman policy, Ragsdale has a plan for success. He has changed the practice schedule to twice a week in order to increase band morale, and he constantly pushes players to give their best. Ragsdale's goal, as well as the band's, is to win first place and achieve superior ratings at all three competitions this year.

The music selections have also



The Sabre Regiment jazzes up half-time with "Soul Man."

changed. In the past, music has been less upbeat and older in style. This year's music is neither. The theme for this season's performances is the "Blues Brothers," which consists of great songs like "Gimme some Lovin'," "Minnie the Moocher," and "Soul Man." These songs promise to deliver excitement

and entertain the crowd as well as achieve the band's goals of superior ratings in competitions.

With the changes, this year is sure to be one of the best for the marching band. To see the final product, look for the Sabre Regiment performing at football games throughout the year.

South Meck wins award for progressive teaching strategy

By Andrew Buchert

South Mecklenburg High School is a recipient of the 1997 Governor's Entrepreneurial Schools Award.

South earned the honor for three programs initiated recently: a high-tech version of the flexography printing process, the Ninth Grade Academy study-skills program, and a CPCC partnership offering college-level classes in sign language and algebra taught at South's campus.

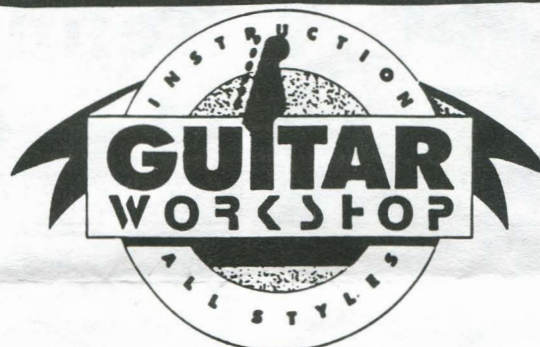
South is one of ten schools in the state receiving the award.

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By Jennifer Collins

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